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Clark Asks Full Facts On Bugging of Dr. King

NEW YORK, Jan. 27 (AP)—Former Attorney General Ramsey Clark says the government should say if it's true that tapes from listening devices installed in the hotel rooms of the late Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. were played to publishers, senators and others.

In an article in the current issue of McCall's magazine, Clark said: "Since his murder, rumors have spread that tapes from bugs, secretly installed in hotel rooms used by Dr. King, were played to publishers, senators and others.

"The people of the United States should know whether this is true. Their government should tell them. The motives for such acts by the FBI, if true, are terribly dangerous . . ."

Clark, now in private law practice, called wiretapping "the act of an incipient police state." He said it was irrelevant to most crime, and often is "guided by the prejudices of those who would overhear."

Last year, Clark suggested that FBI Director J. Edgar Hoover retire after it was disclosed that the FBI had tapped Dr. King's phones. Hoover said that former Attorney General Robert F. Kennedy had proposed it, but Clark called Hoover's statement at that time "unfair and deceptive."

He said that when he was attorney general, Hoover repeatedly asked for authorization to tap Dr. King's phones. He said he refused all such requests, including one two days before Dr. King's assassination.